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as was the interior of New South Wales, with its more arid climate and typically "Australian" vegetation, the Proteaceae, Myrtaceae and Leguminosae being predominant. In Victoria, especial attention was paid to the forests of very tall eucalyptus trees. A short stay was made in West Australia.

New Zealand was covered rather thoroughly and extensive collections made of the flowers of the Podocarpaceae and of *Agathis australis*, the Kauri pine. The Southern Alps, with their wonderful alpine flora, were visited, as was the "Fossil Forest" at the southern tip of the Dominion.

The floras of Australia and New Zealand present many interesting phytogeographical problems, possessing four distinct elements, the Australian, Himalayan, Malayan and Antarctic. Several hypotheses, involving previous land connections and climatic changes, have been put forward to explain the facts.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary*

#### NEWS ITEMS

We learn with regret of the death, early in June, of Frank N. Meyer, one of the most successful agricultural explorers ever sent out by the Government. Thousands of valuable plants from China and Japan have been sent by him to the Bureau of Plant Industry and from there distributed as "Plant Immigrants." Excepting only E. H. Wilson probably no recent explorer has sent such rich collections from the East. Mr. Meyer was missed from a steamer on the Yangste, from which river his body was afterwards taken. There were no indications as to the cause of death.